



Print

12213. Hearing Locations

The Customer Code applies to claims filed on or after April 16, 2007. In addition, the list selection provisions of the Customer Code apply to previously filed claims in which a list of arbitrators must be generated after April 16, 2007; in these cases, however, the claim will continue to be governed by the remaining provisions of the old Code unless all parties agree to proceed under the new Code.

(a) U.S. Hearing Location

(1) The Director will decide which of FINRA's hearing locations will be the hearing location for the arbitration. Generally, the Director will select the hearing location closest to the customer's residence at the time of the events giving rise to the dispute, unless the hearing location closest to the customer's residence is in a different state, in which case the customer may request a hearing location in the customer's state of residence at the time of the events giving rise to the dispute.

(2) Before arbitrator lists are sent to the parties under Rule 12402(c), Rule 12403(c) or Rule 12403(d), the parties may agree in writing to a hearing location other than the one selected by the Director.

(3) The Director may change the hearing location upon motion of a party, as set forth in Rule 12503.

(4) After the panel is appointed, the panel may decide a motion relating to changing the hearing location.

(b) Foreign Hearing Location

(1) If the Director and all parties agree, parties may have their hearing in a foreign hearing location and conducted by foreign arbitrators, provided that the foreign arbitrators have:

(A) met FINRA background qualifications for arbitrators;

(B) received training on FINRA arbitration rules and procedures; and

(C) satisfied at least the same training and testing requirements as those arbitrators who serve in U. S. locations of FINRA.

(2) The parties shall pay an additional surcharge for each day of hearings held in a foreign hearing location. The amount of the surcharge will be determined by the Director and must be agreed to by the parties before the foreign hearing location may be used. This surcharge shall be specified in the agreement to use a foreign hearing location and shall be apportioned equally among the parties, unless they agree otherwise. The foreign arbitrators shall have the authority to apportion this surcharge as provided in Rule 12902(c).

Amended by SR-FINRA-2011-007 eff. Feb. 16, 2011.
Amended by SR-FINRA-2009-073 eff. May 3, 2010.
Amended by SR-FINRA-2008-021 eff. Dec. 15, 2008.
Adopted by SR-NASD-2003-158 eff. April 16, 2007.

Selected Notice: 07-07, 08-57, 10-17.

©2013 FINRA. All rights reserved.

